

REMARKS

Claims 8-11 are currently pending in the application. Claim 8 is independent. Claims 1-7 have been canceled. Claim 11 has been added. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Objection to the Abstract of the Disclosure

The Examiner has objected to the Abstract of the Disclosure because it should contain a single paragraph.

In order to overcome this objection, Applicant has amended the Abstract of the Disclosure to address the issue specifically pointed out by the Examiner. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 8-10 are allowed. The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's early indication of allowable subject matter in this application. Claims 1-7 are canceled by this Reply, thereby automatically placing this application into condition for allowance. Allowance of the instant application is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 3-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Takayanagi. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

While not conceding to the propriety of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 3-7 have been canceled, thereby rendering the rejection thereof moot.

Claim 11

Claim 11 has been added for the Examiner's consideration. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 11 depends on claim 10, which is allowable, and therefore claim 11 is allowable based on its dependence on claim 10. Allowance of claim 11 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

Amendment filed November 19, 2004
Response to Office Action of October 19, 2004

Appln. No.: 09/986,680
Group: 2879

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Percy L. Square, Registration No. 51,084, at (703) 205-8034, in the Washington, D.C. area.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Revised Abstract of the Disclosure